



National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day

Date: April 19, 2023

Public Health Message Type: Alert Advisory Update Information

Intended Audience: All public health partners Healthcare providers
 Infection preventionists
 Local health departments Schools/child care centers
 ACOs
 Animal health professionals Other:

Action Items for Health Care Providers:

- Screen all adults aged 18 years and older at least once in their lifetime using a triple panel test.
- Screen pregnant people for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) during each pregnancy regardless of vaccination status and history of testing.
- Expand periodic risk-based testing to include people incarcerated, people with a history of sexually transmitted infections or multiple sex partners, and people with hepatitis C virus infection.
- Test anyone who requests HBV testing regardless of disclosure of risk.
- Vaccinate all adults under age 60 and those over age 60 who have risk factors for hepatitis B infection.
- Consider vaccinating adults aged 60 years and older without known risk factors for hepatitis B infection.

Resources and References:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Screening and Testing for Hepatitis B Virus Infection: CDC Recommendations — United States, 2023](#)
- CDC Hepatitis B Vaccination for Adults cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/vaccadults.htm#adultsRecommended
- Hepatitis B Foundation hepb.org/
 - Social Media Toolkit <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eqw4VwXFHz6GU5U2qjUuDydwUK0YBVDV?usp=sharing>
- New Jersey Department of Health Vaccine Preventable Disease Program nj.gov/health/cd/topics/hepatitisb.shtml

Contact Information:

Jennifer Smith, Health Educator

Jennifer.Smith@doh.nj.gov

609-826-4861

April 30 is National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day. This year's celebration is especially significant since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated their screening and testing recommendations for chronic hepatitis B viral infections. The updated recommendations advise hepatitis B screening for all adults at least once in their lifetime. Full implementation of the recommendations will substantially improve timely diagnosis and facilitate linkage to care for persons with hepatitis B.

Previous CDC recommendations for hepatitis B testing were based on identified risk for infection. Unfortunately, far too many people with hepatitis B in the United States are not aware of their infection. Each of these individuals is a missed opportunity for preventing morbidity and mortality highlighting the need for revised guidance.

Vaccination continues to be the best way to prevent infection with hepatitis B and clinicians should continue to recommend the hepatitis B vaccine to all adult patients through age 59 years who have not been vaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown. Implementation of updated hepatitis B screening and testing guidelines in concert with hepatitis B vaccination recommendations among adults can save lives.

To recognize April 30th as National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day, the Hepatitis B Foundation put together a social media toolkit featuring graphics and sample posts. The toolkit has been updated to include more universal messaging and the Call to-Action to eliminate hepatitis B through universal adult hepatitis B screening and vaccination.

You can find the toolkit here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eqw4VwXFHz6GU5U2qjUuDyawUK0YBVDV?usp=sharing>

Please share these tools and resources with your colleagues and patients. Together, we can help to eliminate hepatitis B viral infection!